



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Marketing
Service

STOP 0264 - Room 1098-S
1400 Independence Avenue, SW.
Washington, D.C. 20250-0264

AUG 30 2006

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Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Office of the Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit, Attn: STB Ex Parte No. 646
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Dear Mr. Williams:

Please accept this letter as the Department of Agriculture's (USDA) intent to participate in the Surface Transportation Board's (STB) Ex Parte No. 646: Simplified Standards for Rail Rate Cases. Under Secretary Bruce Knight will submit written comments for USDA.

On behalf of USDA, please add the following name to the service list for this proceeding as a party of record: Barbara C. Robinson, Deputy Administrator, Transportation and Marketing Programs, Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 1098-South Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-0264.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Barbara C. Robinson".

Barbara C. Robinson
Deputy Administrator
Transportation and Marketing Programs